

also served on the Board of Directors of the Union Bank of St. Clair County for 25 years.

Dr. West was an active member and leader in the Republican Party and was viewed by many as the foremost authority on the Republican Party in southwestern Illinois. He served as chairman of the St. Clair County Republican Century Club for more than 25 years, elected as a delegate at seven Republican National Conventions, and was an Elector in the Electoral College for three presidential elections. He was very active in local, State, and national politics and hosted prominent politicians at St. Clair County events. He was proud to have attended the inaugurations of many presidents and governors and was a frequent guest at the Governor's Mansion and the White House.

Dr. West wrote for medical research journals and was a professor at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, and Barnes Hospital. Dr. West is the namesake and past recipient of the St. Clair County Medical Society's Wilson H. West Award for service in the health care profession. He was honored as an "outstanding alumnus" by the St. Louis University School of Medicine. In 1966, he received the Everett Dirksen Award and subsequently established a Nursing Scholarship with the same organization. In 2002, Dr. West was awarded the prestigious Eisenhower Commission. He was awarded lifetime membership on the Republican National Committee, the honorary organizations, Republican Speaker's Circle, and the Presidents Club.

Dr. West leaves a legacy to his patients of 60 years of service with dedicated professionalism and compassionate care. He touched many lives with his understanding, care, and concern. He provided outstanding treatment and service to three generations of southwestern Illinoisans.

My thoughts and prayers will be with the family and friends of Dr. Wilson West.

TRIBUTE TO BEECHIE BROOKS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community leader and real estate and economic development visionary of the 4th Congressional District, Beechie Brooks.

Beechie Brooks' vision was instrumental in revitalizing and changing the character of neighborhoods in Milwaukee's central city by developing the Halyard Park subdivision. The United Realty Group, a firm that was formed from the merger of several African American real estate companies in 1976, gained approval from the City of Milwaukee's Redevelopment Authority to develop a subdivision of single-family suburban style homes. Mr. Brooks' leadership was integral to creating this "model" of privately financed housing in the central city that continues to draw the attention of people in urban areas around the country. It serves as a testament to the fact that central cities can provide the same quality of life as suburbs.

Beechie Brooks did not rest on his laurels but continued to spearhead development in

the community including: assisted in the development of the Northtown Shopping Center on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and North Avenue which has been renamed Brooks Plaza in his honor; designed and built Brook's X-Press Car Washing Plant on 7th Street and W. North Avenue; oversaw the development of the Masterpiece Supper Club and Motor Lodge on 6th and W. Walnut Streets; and was a founder and treasurer of the state's second oldest African American-owned financial institution, the North Milwaukee State Bank. Mr. Brooks also served on the City of Milwaukee's Board of Assessment, the Wisconsin Real Estate License Examining Board and the NAACP Milwaukee Chapter's Executive Board and chaired their Housing Committee.

Mr. Brooks was devoted to his wife of 58 years, Vernadine who passed away in 2004. They were both active members of St. Mark AME Church. He was instrumental in planning and constructing the building the church currently occupies and continues to serve on St. Mark's Trustee Board that manages the church's real estate holdings. Mr. Brooks is also a member of the Anvil Housing Board which manages the church's two senior citizen housing complexes.

I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Beechie Brooks for his unwavering commitment to making Milwaukee a great place to live and work.

PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 980, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2007. This vital legislation will provide police officers, firefighters, and other public safety officers with basic collective bargaining rights, without undermining state authority or existing state laws—providing modest minimum standards to be included in state laws.

Sadly, some members of this body object to H.R. 980 on the grounds that it supposedly "tramples on state's rights." This could not be further from the truth. The Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act only requires that states and localities have a bargaining process, it does not mandate binding arbitration, it does not allow strikes, and local employers still retain the final say in all budgetary decisions. Furthermore, most states and localities already meet or exceed the bill's minimum requirement of having a process in place that allows police, firefighters and others sit down and talk about their jobs with their employers. For these reasons, it seems to me that the state's rights objections raised by the bill's opponents do not stand up under scrutiny.

Congress has long recognized the benefits of a cooperative working relationship between labor and management. Over the years we have extended collective bargaining rights to letter carriers, postal clerks, public transit employees, and even Congressional employees. It is long past time that we allow public safety

employees the basic right to bargain collectively and raise workplace and public safety issues with their employers and in passing H.R. 980 today we will correct this wrong.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY OF EDWARDSVILLE COUGARS SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor my alma mater Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville, where I graduated with my MBA in 1997, on winning its first national NCAA Division II softball championship.

The fifth ranked Cougars (49–8) closed out the season with a 16-game winning streak. The 3-hour and 15 minute game was the longest in Division II championship history.

Ashley Price hit an RBI single in the 12th inning to give SIUE a 3–2 championship victory over defending national champion Lock Haven at Firestone Stadium in Akron, OH. The national championship is the 17th in the school's history and first in softball.

Members of the team include Ashley Price, Chaleen Rumpf, Carly Wildenrad, Emily Lenart, Courtney Mall, Lindsey Laas, Haylee Eubanks, Abbie Bates, Katy Biggs, Nicole Beecher, Lauren Zembruksi, Sabra McCune, Amanda Puce, Jodie Ohlau, Kaeleigh Rousey, Libby Lenart, Mallory Ruggles and Kaitlin Colosimo. The Head Coach is Sandy Montgomery; Valerie McCoy is the Assistant Coach, and the Student Assistant is Shannon Evans.

I am very pleased to congratulate the softball team of Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville on their national championship and wish them the best of luck for next season.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT TESTIMONY OF MR. CHARLES DAHAN BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 20, 2007, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held an extraordinary briefing on Morocco's progress toward gender equality.

The briefing addressed the very important issue of women's rights in Morocco that has been the number one priority of King Mohammed VI. The Moudawana (the Family Law), adopted in 2003, has sought to raise women's status as full partners with men, in order to uphold equality between the two spouses and to protect children's rights. Women are now able to initiate divorce and to gain custody of their children. Polygamy has become practically impossible.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Charles Dahan, the World Vice President of the Federation of the Moroccan Jewry, shared his exceptional